

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 FEA-01 INT-05

OES-06 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /059 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AVP:SCKEITER:JO

APPROVED BY EB/OA:MHSTYLES

EB/AN - AJRIMAS

DOT/OST - LNEAR (INFO)

FAA/AIA - NPLUMMER (INFO)

ARA/NC - FDEVINE

CAB - DLITTON (INFO)

EB/FSE - DWILSON

FEA - KBAUER (INFO)

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R 240136Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ENRG, CO

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - JET FUEL PRICES

REF : BOGOTA 7267 AND PREVIOUS, STATE 69304

1. BOGOTA REFTTEL WAS WELCOME NEWS. REQUEST EMBASSY
KEEP UP PRESSURE FOR PROMPT RESOLUTION OF THESE ISSUES
IN LIGHT PAST COLOMBIAN PROMISES. SUBJECT EMBASSY'S
CONCURRENCE, WE PROPOSE TARGET DATE OF AUGUST 15. BE
SURE OBREGON UNDERSTANDS THAT FUEL TAX QUESTION INVOLVES
BOTH CURRENT AND PAST COLLECTIONS.

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2. NOTE TO COLOMBIANS AS APPROPRIATE THAT BRANIFF AND

USG WOULD MUCH PREFER SEE PRICE TO BRANIFF REDUCED TO AVIANCA LEVEL, RATHER THAN VICE VERSA. IN THIS CONNECTION URGE THAT JET FUEL PRICE BE SET IN RELATION TO CURRENT COST OF CRUDE IN COLOMBIA, RATHER THAN TO EXPECTED FUTURE COST. AT PRESENT, WHILE COST OF CRUDE IN COLOMBIA IS PRESUMABLY LITTLE ABOVE THREE DOLLARS A BARREL COMPARED WITH ABOUT EIGHT DOLLARS IN U.S., JET FUEL IS ABOUT 14 CENTS A GALLON MORE EXPENSIVE IN COLOMBIA. IT SEEMS UNFAIR THAT AVIANCA SHOULD BENEFIT FROM LOW PRICE IN U.S. WHILE BRANIFF MUST PAY HIGH PRICE IN COLOMBIA, WHERE COST IS LOWER.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE SIMILAR APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT PETROLEUM AUTHORITIES AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL, PREFERABLY IN CONTEXT OTHER BUSINESS. ACCORDING TO BRANIFF, ECOPEPETROL SAYS HIGH PRICE POLICY HAS BEEN IMPOSED UPON IT.

4. IF COLOMBIANS ARGUE THAT HIGH PRICES FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS INTENDED TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION, NOTE THAT AIRLINES ALREADY WELL AWARE OF NEED TO CONSERVE.

5. PLEASE REPORT COLOMBIAN REACTIONS. ROBINSON

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